

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 3 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and incorporate the substance thereof into independent Claim 1, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A liquid container storing a liquid that forms a plurality of concentration layers in a static state and having a supply port for supplying the liquid to another device, the liquid container comprising:

a hollow tubular member whose one end installed in the liquid container is connected to the supply port;

at least one liquid supply hole formed in the tubular member; and

an air introducing port provided at a bottom of the tubular member to introduce air into the tubular member;

wherein the liquid in the liquid container is introduced into the tubular member through the liquid supply hole and the liquid thus introduced is supplied from the supply port to another device, and the air introduced into the tubular member through the air introducing port rises as a bubble in the tubular member to agitate the liquid inside the tubular member.

2. (Original) A liquid container as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tubular member extends vertically upward from a bottom of the liquid container to a height almost equal to an inner height of the liquid container and has the liquid supply hole formed

therein at a plurality of vertically spaced locations, and the plurality of liquid supply holes each introduce nearby liquid into the tubular member.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) A liquid container as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the liquid supply holes is as large as will allow the bubble introduced from the air introducing port to move therethrough out of the tubular member.

5. (Original) A liquid container as claimed in claim 1, wherein the liquid supply holes are open in the tubular member in a direction at a predetermined angle to a center axis of the tubular member.

6. (Original) A liquid container as claimed in claim 5, wherein the plurality of liquid supply holes are all open at the same angle to the center axis of the tubular member.

7. (Original) A liquid container as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tubular member, the supply port and the air introducing port combine to form an integral connection unit removable from the liquid container body.

8. (Original) A liquid container as claimed in claim 1, wherein the liquid is a pigment ink.

9. (Original) An ink jet printing apparatus, which mounts the liquid container of claim 8 and performs a printing operation by ejecting ink from a print head onto a print medium, the ink jet printing apparatus comprising:

a supply means for communicating the supply port with the print head;
wherein the supply means extracts ink from the liquid container and supplies it to the print head as the ink is consumed by the print head.